

Express Mail No. EL988725995US
Mailed: Nov mb r 18, 2003

PATENT
ATTY. DKT. NO. 8404.024

**MOUNTABLE AND DEMOUNTABLE WRAPPING
MATERIAL AND METHOD FOR USE**

RELATED REFERENCES

[0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/747,196, filed December 22, 2000, which is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/491,588, filed January 25, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,182,392, issued February 6, 2001, which is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 08/916,816, filed August 22, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,065,242, issued May 23, 2000, which is a divisional of U.S. Serial No. 08/474,059, filed June 7, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 5,697,199, issued December 16, 1997, which is a continuation-in-part of 08/385,604, filed February 9, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 5,560,181, issued October 1, 1996, the contents of each being hereby expressly incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates generally to wrapping material, and more specifically, but not by way of limitation, to a wrapping material that can be mounted and removed from a surface, such as, for example, a wall, display board or window.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0003] Figure 1 is a perspective view of a sheet of material constructed in accordance with the present invention.

[0004] Figure 2 is a perspective view of a plurality of sheets of material, each sheet of material constructed in the same manner as the sheet shown in Figure 1, with the sheets of material connected to form a pad.

[0005] Figure 3 is a perspective view of the pad of sheets of material shown in Figure 2, with a floral grouping disposed on the top sheet of material in the pad.

[0006] Figure 4 is a perspective view of the floral grouping and pad shown in Figure 3, with a portion of the top sheet of material positioned to be wrapped about the floral grouping.

[0007] Figure 5 is a perspective view of the pad shown in Figure 4 with a portion of the top sheet of material wrapped about the floral grouping.

[0008] Figure 6 is a perspective view of the sheet of material shown in Figure 1 formed into a wrapper containing the floral grouping.

[0009] Figure 7 is a perspective view of two of the wrappers shown in Figure 6, removably attached to a display assembly.

[0010] Figure 8 is a side view of the wrappers and the display assembly shown in Figure 7.

[0011] Figure 9 is another embodiment of two wrappers constructed in accordance with the present invention and removably attached to a display assembly.

[0012] Figure 10 is a side view of the wrappers and the display assembly shown in Figure 9.

[0013] Figure 11 is a perspective view of another sheet of material constructed in accordance with the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0014] Shown in Figure 1 is a sheet of material 10 constructed in accordance with the present invention. The sheet of material 10 has a first side 12, a second side 14, a first end 16, a second end 18, an upper surface 20 and a lower surface 22. A strip of bonding material 24 is applied to the upper surface 20 near to or adjacent the second side 14. The strip of bonding material 24 extends between the first and second ends 16 and 18 of the sheet of material 10. The term "connecting element 24" is used interchangeably herewith with the term "bonding material 24".

[0015] The term "bonding material" as used herein means an adhesive, preferably a pressure sensitive adhesive, or a cohesive. Where the bonding material is a cohesive, a similar cohesive material must be placed on an adjacent surface for bondingly contacting and bondingly engaging the cohesive material. In the embodiment of the invention shown in Figure 1, the strip of bonding material 24 extending between the first end 16 and the second end 18 is an adhesive.

[0016] The sheet of material 10 additionally has a patch of bonding material 26 disposed on a portion of the lower surface 22 of the sheet of material 10. In the embodiment shown in Figure 1 the bonding material of the patch is an adhesive.

[0017] The sheet of material 10 is constructed from any suitable material that is capable of being wrapped about an item as described herein. Preferably, the sheet of material 10 comprises paper (untreated or treated in any manner), cellophane, foil, man-made organic polymer film or combinations thereof. The sheet of material 10 can also be cloth (natural or synthetic) or burlap (natural or synthetic), or combinations thereof.

[0018] The sheet of material 10 may be constructed of a single layer of material or a plurality of layers of the same or different types of materials. Any thickness of the sheet of material 10 may be utilized in accordance with the present invention as long as the sheet of material 10 is wrappable about an item. Additionally, an insulating material, such as bubble film, preferable as one of two layers, can be utilized in order to provide needed protection for the item wrapped in the sheet of material 10. In preferred embodiments, the sheet of material 10 is constructed from two polypropylene films (a 20-inch times 50-inch sheet of Mobil 270 ABW white opaque film laminated to a 20-inch by 15-inch sheet of Mobil 220 AB clear film), or from one or more sheets of paper having a thickness in a range from about 1.0 mil to about 2.5 mil. although the thickness of the sheets of material 10 could be as great as 30 mil.

[0019] The term "man-made organic polymer film" means a man-made resin, such as polypropylene, as opposed to naturally occurring resins such as cellophane.

[0020] A man-made organic polymer film is relatively strong and not as subject to tearing (substantially non-tearable) as might be the case with paper or foil. The man-made organic polymer film is a substantially linearly linked processed organic polymer film and is a synthetic linear chain organic polymer where the carbon atoms are substantially linearly linked. Such films are synthetic polymers formed or synthesized from monomers. Further, a relatively substantially linearly linked processed organic polymer film is virtually waterproof, which may be desirable in many applications such as wrapping a floral grouping. Additionally, a relatively thin film of substantially linearly linked processed organic polymer does not substantially deteriorate in sunlight. Processed organic polymer

films having carbon atoms both linearly linked and cross-linked, and some cross-linked polymer films, also may be suitable for use in the present invention provided that such films are substantially flexible and can be made in a sheet-like format for wrapping purposes consistent with the present invention. For example, one man-made organic polymer film is a polypropylene film.

[0021] A decorative pattern, such a color and/or an embossed pattern, and/or such other decorative surface ornamentation may be applied to the upper surface and/or the lower surface of the sheet of material 10 or portions thereof including, but not limited to, printed designs, coatings, colors, flocking or metallic finishes. The sheet of material 10 may also be totally or partially clear or tinted transparent material.

[0022] The sheet of material 10 may be of any shape and a square shape is shown in Figure 1 only by way of example. The sheet of material 10 is shown in Figure 1 with the strip of bonding material disposed adjacent the second side 14 of the sheet of material 10. In other embodiments bonding material in multiple strips or in different positions on sheets of material, other than that discussed in detail below, are used.

[0023] A plurality of sheets of material 10 are connected together to form a pad 32 of sheets of material 10, as shown in Figures 2-5. The pad 32 contains a plurality of sheets of material 10 with a top sheet of material 10 disposed on the top of the pad 32 and the remaining sheets of material 10 of the pad 32 disposed generally under the top sheet of material 10. Each of the sheets of material 10, including the top sheet of material 10, has a first side 12, a second side 14, a first end 16, a second end 18, an upper surface 20 and a lower surface 22 (shown in Figure 4). As discussed previously, a strip of bonding

material 24 comprising an adhesive is applied to the upper surface 20 of each of the sheets of material 10, including the top sheet of material 10, generally near and extending a distance from the second side 14 thereof. With the strip of bonding material 24 extending generally between the first and second ends 16, 18 of each of the sheets of material 10, the strip of bonding material 24 is applied to the upper surface 20 of each of the sheets of material 10 substantially as shown. Additionally, a patch of bonding material 26 consisting of either a cohesive or an adhesive is applied to the lower surface 22 of each of the sheets of material 10 substantially as shown for the sheet of material 10 in Figure 1. When the patch of bonding material 26 on the lower surface 22 consists of a cohesive, it cooperates with the strip of bonding material 24 on the upper surface 20 of the adjacent lower sheet of material 10 to assist in holding the sheets of material 10 into the pad 32.

[0024] Additionally, the sheets of material 10 can be connected together to form the pad 32 by binding the sheets of material 10 along their second sides 14 with a binding material (not shown). Any conventional binding material capable of binding the second sides 14 of the sheets of material 10 can be employed as the binding material. Such binding materials, as well as the technique for binding sheets of material along one side to form a pad, are well known in the art.

[0025] Each of the sheets of material 10 in the pad 32 is releasably connected to the other sheets of material 10 by way of the strip of bonding material 24 and/or the patches of bonding material 26 in a releasable manner. The sheet of material 10 can be removed from the pad 32 by lifting the sheet of material 10 from the pad 32 and disconnecting the bond formed by the strips of bonding material 24 and/or patches of bonding material 26.

[0026] As shown in Figure 3, an item, such as a floral grouping 34, is placed on the upper surface 20 of the top sheet of material 10. The term “floral grouping” as used herein means cut fresh flowers, artificial flowers, or other fresh and/or artificial plants or other floral materials and may include other secondary plants and/or ornamentation which add to the aesthetics of the overall floral grouping 34. The floral grouping 34 has a bloom end 36 and a stem end 38.

[0027] The floral grouping 34 is disposed on the top sheet of material 10 of the pad 32 so that a portion of the stem end 38 of the floral grouping 34 overlies a portion of the strip of bonding material 24 substantially as shown.

[0028] Referring now to Figures 4, 5, and 6, the floral grouping 34 is wrapped within the top sheet of material 10, by lifting a corner of the top sheet of material 10 (formed from adjacent portions of the first side 12 and the first end 16) and placing the corner generally about the floral grouping 34. In this position, the top sheet of material 10 and the floral grouping 34 are rolled in a rolling direction 40 and in a direction 42 (Figure 4) generally toward the strip of bonding material 24 disposed along the second side 14 of the top sheet of material 10, thereby rolling the top sheet of material 10 about the floral grouping 34 to provide a wrapper 44 (Figure 6) for the floral grouping 34 having an opening 46 extending through a lower end 48 thereof and an opening 50 extending through an upper end 52 thereof. The patch of bonding material 26 on the lower surface 22 of the sheet of material 10 is thereby exposed and is available to be releasably connected to a surface, as will be explained in detail below.

[0029] The stem end 38 of the floral grouping 34 extends through the opening 46 in the lower end 48 of the wrapper 44 and the bloom end 36 of the floral grouping 34 is exposed near the opening 50 in the upper end 52 of the wrapper 44. The upper end 52 of the wrapper 44 is adjusted as desired to compensate for the size of the bloom end 36 of the floral grouping 34. Once the wrapping of the top sheet of material 10 about the floral grouping 34 is completed, the strip of bonding material 24 is utilized to adhesively connect the second side 14 of the top sheet of material 10 to an adjacent portion of the top sheet of material 10, thereby ensuring that the resulting wrapper 44 is securely wrapped generally about the floral grouping 34 and there are substantially no flaps formed by unbonded portions of the top sheet of material 10, as shown in Figure 6.

[0030] When the top sheet of material 10 has been secured about the floral grouping 34 in the manner just described, the sheet of material 10 generally under the top sheet of material 10 then provides a new top sheet of material 10 and the process can be repeated for wrapping additional or other floral groupings 34 until substantially all the sheets of material 10 in the pad 32 have been wrapped about the floral groupings 34.

[0031] Figures 7 and 8 show two wrappers 44 containing floral groupings 34 disposed on a mounting surface 54, also called interchangeably herein the "display surface 54", of a display assembly 56. The display assembly 56 includes the mounting surface 54 and a support member 58. It will be appreciated that the display assembly 56, also interchangeably termed the "assembly 56", may comprise only the display surface 54 and the wrapper 44 having the floral grouping 34 therein. As shown in Figures 7 and 8, the wrapper 44 is secured by the bonding material 26 applied to the lower surface 22 of the

sheet of material 10, the bonding material 26 being releasably connected to the mounting surface 54 of the display assembly 56. Although the wrapper 44 is shown releasably connected to the mounting surface 54 of the display assembly 56 in Figures 7 and 8, it is understood that the wrapper 44 can similarly be connected to other display surfaces, such as, for example, and not by way of limitation, a pane of glass, such as in a window, the top surface of a table, or a wall.

[0032] As previously discussed, the bonding material 26 comprises an adhesive, and more particularly a pressure sensitive adhesive, wherein when pressure is applied to the wrapper 44, the pressure releasably affixes the wrapper 44 to the mounting surface 54. When a pulling or lifting force is applied to the wrapper 44, the force is sufficient to release the wrapper 44 from the mounting surface 54.

[0033] Referring now to Figures 9 and 10, a display assembly 60 is shown which is similar to the display assembly 56 shown in Figures 7 and 8, except that the display assembly 60 has a mounting surface or displaying surface 62 upon which a bonding material 64 consisting of a cohesive is disposed. Two wrappers 44a are affixed to the bonding material 64 of the mounting surface 62 of the display assembly 60, each of the wrappers 44a containing a floral grouping 34.

[0034] A portion of the bonding material 64 on the mounting surface 62 of the display assembly 60 bondingly and releasably connects to a portion of the bonding material 26a disposed on the wrapper 44a.

[0035] When the bonding material 64 on the mounting surface 62 is a cohesive, it is understood that the bonding material 26a on the wrapper 44a will also comprise a

cohesive adapted to cohere to the cohesive of the bonding material 64. By using bonding materials 64 and 26a which are cohesives that can cohere one to another, a releasable connection between the bonding materials 64 and 26a can be made; thus the wrapper 44a can be removably secured to the mounting surface 62 of the display assembly 60, while at the same time allowing the wrapper 44a to be easily removed from the mounting surface 62 of the display assembly 60.

[0036] An advantage of using bonding materials 64 and 26a which are compatible cohesives is that the bonding materials 64 and 26a will tend to resist the attraction of extraneous materials such as dirt or lint, because substances other than a compatible cohesive will not cohere to the bonding materials 64 and 26a.

[0037] Shown in Figure 11 is a sheet of material 10b constructed in accordance with the present invention. The sheet of material 10b has a first side 12b, a second side 14b, a first end 16b, a second end 18b, an upper surface 20b, and a lower surface 22b. A strip of bonding material 24b extends between the first and second ends 16b, 18b of the sheet of material 10b. Additionally, a bonding material 26b is applied to the lower surface 22b of the sheet of material 10b. Bonding material 26b disposed on the lower surface 22b is shown in phantom and is illustrated in the form of five hearts, only one heart being designated by the reference numeral 26b; however, the bonding material can be disposed on the lower surface 22b of the sheet of material 10b in any desired shape, figure, or combination of shapes and figures. For example, and not by way of limitation, the bonding material can be in the form of geometric shapes, stars, diamonds, animal figures, figures of flowers, or other fanciful or decorative designs. Generally, except as discussed above,

the sheet of material 10b will be constructed and used in the same manner as the sheet of material 10 shown in Figure 1.

[0038] Changes may be made in the construction and the operation of the various components, elements and assemblies described herein and changes may be made in the steps or sequence of steps of the methods described herein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the following claims.